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Spring 1999  
Vol. 14, No. 1

## National Conference Extends Agriculture into the Nation's Schools

Sharlet Teigen, AITC Conference Planning Committee

**E**ducators from around the United States will gather in Oklahoma City, OK on May 19-22, 1999 for hands-on training. Instead of learning new theories about teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, they will learn how to incorporate agriculture into their everyday lessons.

The 1999 National Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Conference will feature workshops, roundtables, a recognition luncheon for outstanding educators, exhibits from ag-related companies and education organizations, and a "Make and Take" fair. While in Oklahoma City, conference attendees

will experience special events, including the Cowboy Hall of Fame and the 14th Annual Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Range Roundup.

Workshops will be hands-on sessions. Topics will include chick embryology, entomology, soil sciences and teacher-friendly presentations. Two traveling workshops will take educators to the Myriad Botanical Gardens, Ft. Reno Grazing Lands Research Lab, and the El Reno Federal Prison Farm. This 4,000 acre farm and dairy provides food to 20 other prisons.

USDA's Ag in the Classroom and Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom will co-sponsor this year's conference. For up-to-date conference information, go to the AITC web site at <http://www.reeusda.gov/serd/hep/agclass.htm>, or contact the USDA national AITC office at 202-720-7925. Pre-registration deadline is May 1.

Ag in the Classroom Notes is published quarterly by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC.

Ag in the Classroom is staffed in Higher Education Programs within the Science and Education Resources Development division of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

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K. Jane Coulter, Deputy Administrator Science and Education Resources Development

Vacant, Director Higher Education Programs Subscriptions Subscriptions to Ag in the Classroom Notes are available to the public at no charge.

Continued on Page 12.

## 1999 National Ag In The Classroom Conference

# Blazing Trails to the 21st Century

May 19-22, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, May 19

Registration Opens (8:00 a.m.)

Exhibits Open (3:00 p.m.)

Newcomers Meeting (3:00 p.m.)

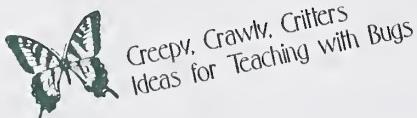
State Contacts Meeting (4:00 p.m.)

Round Table Sessions  
(20 minute sessions on a variety of topics)

Make and Take Fair  
Regional Meetings

Buses leave (5:00 p.m.)

Banquet and Tour at the World Renowned Cowboy Hall Of Fame.



Welcome to Oklahoma  
Buffet Dinner and Mixer

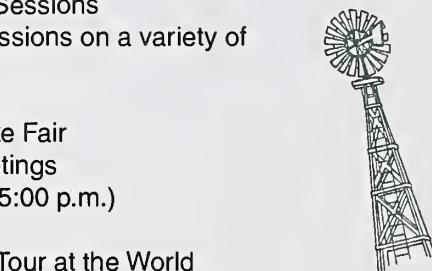


### Thursday, May 20

Breakfast/General Session (7:00 a.m.)

Concurrent Workshops

Teacher Recognition Luncheon



### Friday, May 21

Breakfast (7:00 a.m.)

Buses leave for Traveling Workshops. We will blaze a trail through Oklahoma and experience hands-on activities you can share with teacher and students.

Lunch at Express Ranch

Return to Hotel (3:00 p.m.)

5:00 p.m. Buses leave for the fabulous Lazy E Arena where we will be the guests of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association for dinner and the annual Cattlemen's Range Roundup.

### Saturday, May 22

Breakfast/Closing Session (7:00 a.m.)

Meeting of Ag In The Classroom Consortium (11:00 a.m.)

Post Conference Tour for those that choose to attend. (1:30 p.m.)

*We'll See Y'all  
There!*



Kick-up your Heels at the  
Oklahoma Range Roundup

## 1999 National Ag In The Classroom Conference

# Blazing Trails to the 21st Century

May 19-22, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### Conference Particulars

#### Obtaining Up-to-Date Information

<http://www.reeusda.gov/serd/hep/agclass.htm>

#### Making Reservations

- Please fill out the registration form and get it to us as soon as possible.
- Hurry to make your hotel reservations with the Oklahoma City (OKC) Marriott Hotel on NW Expressway by calling 1-800-831-4004 or 405-842-6633. The room rate is \$94 plus 10.38% sales tax for a single or double room. A limited number of rooms have been blocked for May 18, 19, and 20. You must make hotel reservations by **May 1**. Be sure to tell the Marriott that you're with the Ag in the Classroom conference.

#### Getting to the Conference

- Shuttle service is available from the airport to the Marriott (the OKC Marriott does not have its own shuttle service). There are several airport shuttles that operate from Will Rogers World Airport. Most fares are approximately \$11.
- If you are driving from Will Rogers World Airport, go north on Meridian Ave. to Airport Rd.; exit right to I-44. Take left exit (northbound) I-44 to the Highway 3-A Exit. Right exit to NW Expressway, turn right. Travel approximately 15-20 minutes.

#### Exhibits

- Cost for commercial exhibit space is \$295. This includes registration for one person. You will receive one 6-foot table and 2 chairs. Additional spaces are available for \$100 each. (Use #2 on registration form to reserve a space.)
- There is no charge for state exhibits, but states **MUST** register to reserve a space (See #2 on the registration form.)
- Setup hours: May 19, 6 am-3 pm. All exhibits must be in place by 3 pm.
- Exhibit hours: May 19, 3 pm-6 pm; May 20, 9 am-5:30 pm. Security will be provided through 6:30 pm May 20.

• Tear-down: You may begin to tear exhibits down any time after 5:30 pm, May 20. All commercial exhibits must be down by 8 am Friday morning. To encourage participation, we have scheduled breaks in the exhibit area.

- If you need electricity mark the appropriate box on the registration form. Costs will be determined by the amps used. These arrangements and charges will be handled directly by the hotel. An order form will be sent to you with more information. Phone lines for computers are also available by request.
- Return shipping will be arranged by the hotel. A representative will contact you during the show.
- Materials should arrive at the hotel no earlier than May 12. Ship to Oklahoma City Marriott, 3233 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112. Mark your packages "HOLD FOR ARRIVAL; AG IN THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE EXHIBIT MATERIALS". Make sure your name and your organization's name are included on your label.

#### Planning for Special Events

- Guests are welcome to join us at the Cowboy Hall of Fame for a lovely evening of entertainment, time in the museum and banquet. Guests must register in advance. See registration form. Guests are also welcome to join us at the Range Roundup and dinner. Additional tickets for this event are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis for those registering after May 1.

#### Post-Conference Tour

- You are welcome to join us for a post-conference tour, departing from the hotel Saturday May 22 at 1:30 pm. We will visit the Ft. Sill Museum, where the famous warrior Geronimo is buried, drive through the beautiful Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge where you will see buffalo and longhorn cattle and have dinner at the historical Meers Store. Post-conference registration includes transportation, a box lunch and admission to the museum. You will be responsible for your evening meal.

# **Blazing Trails to the Twenty-First Century 1999 Agriculture in the Classroom National Conference**

## **Registration Form**

(Please print all information.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Affiliation (Choose all that apply)**

AITC State Contact

Principal/Administrator

Educator

University or College

AITC Board Member

Education Board Member

Volunteer

Federal/State Government

Commodity or Ag Group Please

specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Full Registration**

- 1** Full registration (includes entire conference)  
 \$195 (By May 1)  
 \$225 (After May 1)

### Guests for special events:

Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total of #\_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 )

Guest's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Range Roundup and dinner:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total of #\_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 )

Guest's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

## **2 Exhibits (See Exhibit Particulars)**

- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Commercial Exhibit: \$295  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional exhibit space \$100 each  
#\_\_\_\_\_ Additional spaces requested  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ State exhibit  
(no cost but advanced registration is required.)

Will you need electricity? Yes:\_\_\_\_\_ No:\_\_\_\_\_

## **3 Post Conference Tour**

This cost is not included in the registration cost and must be filled out to attend. Guests are welcome to attend.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total of #\_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 )

## **4**

## **Registration by the Day**

(For persons NOT attending full conference)

### Wednesday:

\$25 (Evening session and meal)

### Thursday:

\$100 (All meals and events)

### Guests for Thursday special events:

Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total of #\_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 )

Guest's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

### Friday:

\$125 (All meals and events)

### Guests for special events

Range Roundup and dinner:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total of #\_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 )

Guest's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday:

\$20 (Closing session and breakfast)

Total for Post Conference Tour: (#\_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 )

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total of section 4

## **Payment Options**

You may pay by check or credit card. Make sure you fill in totals on the appropriate lines.

Make checks payable to Oklahoma State University.

## **5 \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL**

If Paying by credit card circle which card: Visa or Master Card

Card Holder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Must sign here if using credit card)

Mail with check or FAX with  
credit card information to:

Ag in the Classroom Conference  
430 Student Union  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078-7061  
FAX: 405-744-8491  
Phone: 405-744-6489

## **Announcing Two Hot New Classroom Resources on Agricultural Research**

Help your kids bridge the gap between agriculture and everyday life by introducing them to the interesting—sometimes wacky—world of agricultural research. How? With the following new resources offered by the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Both help kids understand that science is not something far away in a laboratory; it's wired right into our daily lives—in the foods we eat, the clothes we wear, and the water we drink. AND...guess what? Science is FUN!

### **Sci4Kids**

Sci4Kids, a World Wide Web site geared to children ages 8 to 13, presents a series of stories that let's kids take a peek behind the scenes to discover what ARS scientists do—some really neat stuff! Check out these super cool stories—

- Going Coo Coo for Chickens
- Bugs for Breakfast?
- Nightmare on Elm Street
- Using Satellites to Find Bees
- Fun Careers in a Small Town
- Plants Like Heavy Metal Too

Fun, right? Well, these are just a few of the stories. New ones are added regularly. And just wait until you see the photos, graphics, trivia, links to other scientific resources, and ideas for science fair projects! Students can also e-mail "Dr. Watts" with questions or comments about things they learn from the stories.

Older kids and adults—especially teachers—will love the site, too. Teachers, stay posted...the site will soon include a special section just for you! Check it out at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/>

### **Whiz Kid Activity Packet for Educators**

From fries made of rice and an update on school lunch pizza to beans with wings used to treat acne, this teacher packet is just what the doctor ordered

for introducing agricultural research to students in middle school and early high school.

Packed with clever graphics and lots of fun, the three-hole-punched packet of reproducibles includes six self-scoring quizzes and two web site exercises. The activity that follows is just a sampling!

For single free copies, while supplies last, write AITC, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3435 South Bldg., Washington DC 20250-2251.

## **Sustainable Agriculture Explored in New PBS Series**

Sustainable Agriculture is the theme of the third program in the new three-part PBS series, *Journey to Planet Earth*, premiering in April. *Land of Plenty, Land of Want* (April 20 at 10:00 - 11:00 p.m., ET/check local listings) visits diverse farming communities in Zimbabwe, France, the United States and China to examine the worldwide problems of feeding a growing population. Loss of land due to urbanization, weather phenomena like El Niño, and the misuse of chemicals and pesticides are just some of the problems farmers face. The first two programs in the series are *Rivers of Destiny* (April 6 at 10:00 p.m. ET) and *The Urban Explosion* (April 12 at 10:00 p.m. ET).

### **Free Educational Material Available from PBS Stations**

A Middle School Teacher's Package consisting of a teacher's guide and video segments excerpted from each program is available at no charge to teachers. In addition, materials built around the topic of Sustainable Agriculture and designed for after-school programs are also available.

For more details on the education materials, visit the Journey to Plant Earth web site at <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/planetearth>. To order these materials, call your local PBS station or Michele Reap, South Carolina Educational Television, (803) 737-3394 or e-mail: [mreap@scetv.org](mailto:mreap@scetv.org).

## **Understanding Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium in Our World**



Three educational books for use in fourth through eighth grades are now available through the Potash & Phosphate Institute

(PPI) and the Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR). Each colorful 24-page book features either nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium; the major plant nutrients; and leads the reader on a journey to examine why the nutrient is so important. Human nutrition as it relates to plant nutrition, soil conservation, and science as part of modern agriculture are some of the principles taught in these books.

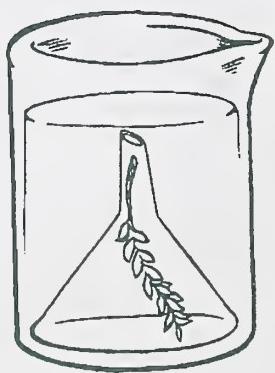
To order a book, just send \$1.50 plus shipping and handling (\$4.00 for 1-5 books), to:

Potash & Phosphate Institute  
Circulation Department, PPI  
655 Engineering Drive, Suite 110  
Norcross, GA 30092-2843  
Phone: (770) 825-8084  
Fax: (770) 448-0439

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### **Have You Thanked a Green Plant Today?**

1. Fill the glass container about 2/3 full of the baking soda solution. This serves to provide carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.
2. Get a healthy shoot tip about 10 cm long from the plant and place in the container with the baking soda solution. Make a fresh cut cross the lower end of the stem if it has not been recently cut from the plant.
3. Anchor the plant to the bottom of the container in an upside down position with the freshly cut stem pointing up and the tip of the leaves pointing down. A clear funnel works well. Place the inverted plant just inside the inverted funnel. Make sure the end of the stem is submerged at 2-3 cm below the surface of the solution.
4. Place the bright light near the plant and container. (The sun may be used in place of



an artificial light source.) Wait five minutes. Bubbles should begin to appear from the cut end of the stem. If a plant does not begin to bubble, make a fresh cut across it stem end. Count the number of bubbles per minute for three one-minute intervals and record your data.

5. Now move the bright light away from the plant to about one meter distance. Wait five minutes and let the stem adjust. Count the bubbles per one minute and record your data. Repeat two more times. (If sunlight is the source of bright light used, then the plant should be placed one meter from the window.)
6. Turn off all lights in the room and close the blinds. Wait five minutes and let the system (plant) adjust. Count the number of bubbles per minute and record the data. Repeat two more times.
7. Discuss how water and carbon dioxide react in the presence of sunlight to produce sugar, oxygen and water. Oxygen is the end product of photosynthesis and is returned to the air.

# AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN

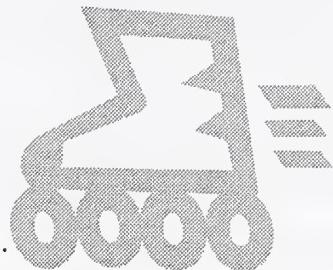
Spaghetti, Twinkies, sourdough bread, puffed wheat, Oriental noodles, and concrete (yes, CONCRETE...) are just a few of many products made from wheat. Try your hand at the following grain game. How do you score?

## Scoring

- 6-8 You're on a roll!
- 3-5 Pita good. Dough-not be discouraged.
- 0-2 Tough cookies. Take a peek on back...then try again!

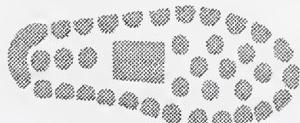
## FACT or FICTION ???

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Grains are fattening, so you shouldn't eat too much.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Sourdough bread is made only in San Francisco.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (3) The United States produces much of the world's wheat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) More foods are made with wheat than with any other cereal grain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5) One of wheat's worst enemies is rust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Though there are many different wheat varieties, their use is basically the same.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (7) Tomorrow, you may be skating on sidewalks made from wheat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (8) Breeding is an important focus in wheat research.



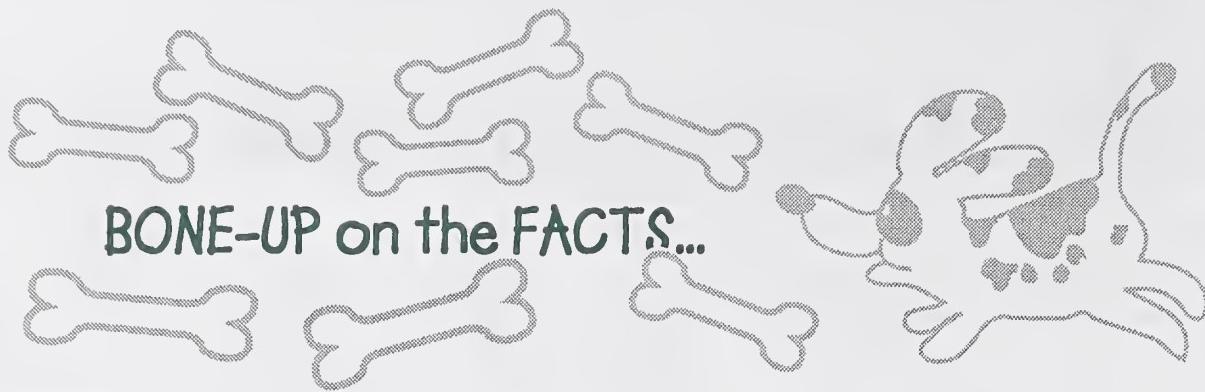
## DID YOU KNOW?

1 bushel of wheat = about 10 1 lb loaves



## ONE STEP FURTHER...

You have been selected to plan a classroom program on grains at your local elementary school. Suggest three hands-on activities you could feature.



## BONE-UP on the FACTS...

### (1) FICTION

Most grain foods are low in fat—unless you add it (like butter on bread and fatty sauces on pasta). You need 6-11 servings from the grains group each day. In addition to bread and cereal, foods like pretzels, pancakes, spaghetti, popcorn, tortillas, and the crust on pizza count too.

### (2) FICTION

For years, bakers in the San Francisco Bay area insisted that their sourdough bread couldn't be duplicated farther than 50 miles away. But back in the 1960's, ARS scientists identified the bacterium and yeast that work together to produce the sourdough flavor. Now you can get sourdough bread anywhere in the world!

### (3) FACT

China and the European Union produce the most, but the United States offers a good share—about 60 to 70 million metric tons per year. North Dakota and Kansas harvest more than any other state.

### (4) FACT

### (5) FACT

Rust is a fungal disease that thrives best on wheat in the Pacific Northwest. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, stripe rust caused losses of over 70% of this area's wheat crop. Developing resistance to rust, as well as to other diseases and pests, is an ongoing ARS research activity.

### (6) FICTION

There are several hundred wheat varieties produced in the United States—all categorized into six classes depending on whether the grain is hard or soft, the color of the kernel, and the time of planting. The hard wheats (hard red winter, hard red spring, and hard white wheat) are used mainly for yeast breads. Durum, the hardest wheat, is used for pasta products like macaroni and spaghetti.

The soft wheats (soft red winter and soft white wheat) are low in protein and are used for products like flat breads, cakes, pastries, and crackers. Some wheats have been developed to produce special flavors in products like tortillas and Oriental noodles.

### (7) FACT

ARS is finding more and more ways to use wheat in food and nonfood products. Wheat-starch-based concrete is one of the newest. Potential uses include roofing tiles, insulation, flooring, soundproofing, insulated patios, AND sidewalks!

### (8) FACT

ARS is continually breeding new wheat varieties to yield more nutritious flour and to fend off pests and diseases. Much of the wheat produced in the United States is from varieties bred by ARS and university cooperators.

#### CHECK IT OUT—

<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~wheaties/>

<http://www.pw.usda.gov/>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/jan97/> (See "From Bread to Blocks")

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/>

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/>

# AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

## STATE CONTACTS

Each state, Washington D.C., and U.S. Territory has an Agriculture in the Classroom program. The individuals listed here are key reference persons in each state.

### **Alabama**

Ms. Jane Alice Lee  
2101 Bell Road  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
P: (334) 240-7125  
F: (334) 240-7193  
E: alagipub01@agri  
ind.state.al.us

Ms. Amy Blecher  
P. O. Box 3336  
Montgomery, AL 36109 0336  
(numbers same as above)

### **Alaska**

Ms. Vicki Naegele  
P.O. Box 1073  
Delta Junction, AK 99737  
P: 907-895-4012  
E: AAITC@knix.net  
Call before faxing.

### **Arizona**

Ms. Monica Pastor  
Ag Literacy Program  
Cooperative Extension  
University of Arizona  
4341 E. Broadway  
P: (602) 470-8086 ext 317  
F: (602) 470-8092  
E: mpastor@ag.arizona.edu

### **Arkansas**

Mr. Tim King  
Arkansas Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 31  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
P: 501-224-4400  
F: 501-228-1557  
<http://www.arfb.com/agclass/>

### **California**

Ms. Judy Culbertson  
CA Foundation for  
Ag in the Classroom  
2300 River Plaza Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
P: (916) 561-5625  
F: (916) 561-5697  
E: cfaic@cfbf.com  
[www.cfaic.org](http://www.cfaic.org)

### **Colorado**

Ms. Bette Blinde  
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### **Connecticut**

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Mr. Alfred Mannebach  
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### **Delaware**

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E: anne@smtp.dda.state.de.us

### **District of Columbia**

Ms. Barbara Evans  
4340 Connecticut Ave., NW  
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Washington, DC 20008  
P: (202) 274-7160  
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### **Florida**

Ms. Doty Wenzel  
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Tallahassee, FL 32308  
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### **Georgia**

Ms. Donna Reynolds  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 7068  
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P: (912) 474-8411  
F: (912) 474-8750

### **Hawaii**

Mr. Michael Barros  
189 Lunalilo Home Rd.  
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Honolulu, HI 96825  
P: (808) 733-9125

### **Idaho**

Mr. Rick Waitley  
Waitley Associates  
1741 Gibson Way  
Meridian, ID 83642  
P: (208) 888-0988  
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### **Illinois**

Ms. Linda Henderson  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
1701 North Towanda Ave.  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
P: (309) 557-3334  
F: (309) 557-2641 <http://fb.com/ilfb/fieldservices/fsmenu.htm>

### **Indiana**

Ms. Lori Smith  
150 W Market Street  
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Indianapolis, IN 46024  
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Mr. Harry L. Pearson  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
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Indianapolis, IN 46206

### **Iowa**

Ms. Carol Davis  
Iowa Ag in the Classroom  
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F: (515) 225-5661

### **Kansas**

Ms. Sandra Kramer  
124 Bluemont Hall  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506  
P: (785) 532-7946  
F: (785) 532-7304

### **Kentucky**

Ms. Faye Lowe  
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40250-0700  
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F: (207) 764-4148  
E: blacb@bangornews.infi.net  
<http://bairnet.bpl.lib.me.us/>  
[organizations/agclass/purpose.htm](http://organizations/agclass/purpose.htm)

**Maryland**  
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MD Ag Educ. Found., Inc.  
12985 Frederick Road  
P.O. Box 409  
West Friendship, MD 21794  
P: (410) 489-9030  
F: (410) 489-9035  
E: saconn@ix.netcom.com  
[www.mda.state.md.us/maef/default.htm](http://www.mda.state.md.us/maef/default.htm)

**Massachusetts**  
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P.O. Box 345  
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E: dchogan@sprynet.com  
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**Michigan**  
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St. Paul, MN 55107  
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**Mississippi**  
Ms. Clara Bilbo  
Mississippi Ag in the Classroom  
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P.O. Box 1972  
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